

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SYDNEY 00400 230526Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 FCC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15

COME-00 BIB-01 IO-14 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 /103 W

-----125519 230755Z /23

R 230345Z FEB 78

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8182

INFO: RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDOO 718

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS SYDNEY 0400

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, AS

SUBJECT: INMARSAT - TECHNICAL PANEL MEETING, SYDNEY, FEB 15-22

REF: STATE 015456 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY, TECHNICAL PANEL EXPEDITIOUSLY AND SATISFACTORILY CONSIDERED ALL MATTERS ON ITS AGENDA, AND OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE US, AGREED THAT EXISTING MARISAT SYSTEM WOULD BE TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE AS BASIS FOR AN INITIAL INMARSAT SYSTEM. PANEL ANTICIPATES RESOLUTION AT ITS FOURTH MEETING OF MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUE PENDING RESOLUTION; THAT OF ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM TO BE EMPLOYED WITH FUTURE INMARSAT SYSTEM.

2. FIFTEEN PREPCOM MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS FROM SEVEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDED ABOVE-REFERENCED MEETING. MEETING CONSIDERED VARIOUS TECHNICAL MATTERS ASSIGNED IT BY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. THE MORE IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS ARE DESCRIBED BELOW. THERE WERE NO POLITICAL ISSUES RAISED.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EXISTING MARISAT SYSTEM

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SYDNEY 00400 230526Z

WOULD BE TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE AS THE BASIS FOR AN INITIAL INMARSAT SYSTEM. REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW SERVICES AND AN INCREASING CAPACITY DEMAND WILL MAKE IT DESIRABLE TO INTRODUCE A NEW SYSTEM DESIGN AT A FUTURE TIME. IT WAS AGREED THAT ANY NEW SYSTEM SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE EXISTING MARISAT SATELLITES AND EARTH STATIONS.

4. MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUE PENDING RESOLUTION IS THAT OF ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM TO BE EMPLOYED WITH FUTURE INMARSAT SYSTEM (I.E., SYSTEM WHICH FOLLOWS INITIAL RELIANCE ON MARISAT TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS, AS DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 2, ABOVE). ISSUE IS WHETHER TO UTILIZE CENTRALIZED OR DISTRIBUTED CONTROL SYSTEM. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT TECHNICAL ASPECTS, OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS, ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES, AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WOULD AFFECT FINAL RESOLUTION. TECH PANEL HAS INVITED MEMBERS' VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF FOURTH PANEL MEETING WITH INTENT TO REACH CONSENSUS AT THAT TIME.

5. WORK CONTINUED ON STUDIES REGARDING PROVISIONS FOR DISTRESS AND SAFETY FACILITIES UNDER WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY CAPTAIN JAMES FEAR OF US DEL. BASIC APPROACH TO PROVISION OF DISTRESS CHANNELS AGREED TO BE THROUGH USE OF PRIORITY PRE-EMPTION RATHER THAN ASSIGNMENT OF DEDICATED CHANNELS. DISCUSSION WITH REGARD TO EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATION RADIO BEACONS( EPIRB) INDICATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR L-BAND SYSTEM AS OPPOSED TO 406 MHZ SYSTEM. FINAL RESOLUTION EPIRB ISSUE ANTICIPATED AT NEXT SESSION.

6. CONSIDERATION OF SPACE SEGMENT ALTERNATIVES  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SYDNEY 00400 230526Z

FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON ANTICIPATED OFFER BEING PREPARED BY EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ON THE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH US MARISAT JOINT VENTURE AND OTHERS), AND PROPOSALS FROM INTELSAT. COST CONSIDERATIONS IN REGARD TO THESE OPTIONS,AS WELL AS THOSE FOR AN INMARSAT SPECIFIED DEDICATED SYSTEM, WERE DOCUMENTED FOR USE BY ECONOMIC PANEL. CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POSITION, ALL OPTIONS WERE EXAMINED OBJECTIVELY, AND FINAL REPORT INDICATES NO PREFERENCE FOR ANY PARTICULAR ALTERNATIVE.

7. OTHER MATTERS ADDRESSED INCLUDED:

- A. UPDATING LIST OF SERVICE CAPABILITIES
- B. DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF LAND AND SHIP EARTH STATIONS.
- C. UPDATING OF OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS.
- D. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS.
- E. CONTINUATION OF STUDIES ON SHIP TERMINAL STANDARDS AND SPARES PHILOSOPHY.

8. PANEL'S FOURTH MEETING WILL BE AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED IN LENINGRAD ON 3-7 JULY 1978 AT INVITATION USSR.

DAVIS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SYDNEY00400  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780083-0727  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SYDNEY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780220/aaaaaqpq.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2c3008d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 15456  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3498996  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INMARSAT - TECHNICAL PANEL MEETING, SYDNEY, FEB 15-22  
**TAGS:** ETEL, AS, INMARSAT  
**To:** STATE LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2c3008d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014